

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Device (9)~~ A device for mixing fibers in a gaseous flow, comprising a duct ~~(11)~~ for suspending fibers in a gaseous flow, with an inlet ~~(13)~~ and an outlet ~~(15)~~ and, between said inlet and said outlet, at least a first pair of rotors ~~(16, 17)~~ on the inlet side and a second pair of rotors ~~(18, 19)~~ on the outlet side, said rotors being arranged perpendicular to said flow and equipped with radial elements ~~(43)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the rotors of each pair have axes of rotation parallel to each other.

3. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1 or 2, ~~in which~~ wherein the rotors of the various pairs have axes of rotation parallel to each other.

4. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 2, ~~in which~~ wherein the rotors of the first pair rotate in opposite directions to each other and ~~the rotors of the second pair rotate in opposite directions~~ various pairs have axes of rotation parallel to each other.

5. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~Claim 4~~ claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the rotors ~~(16, 17)~~ of the first pair rotate ~~so as to tend to produce a denser arrangement of the~~

fibers in the passing flow toward the central zone of the duct (11), while the rotors (18, 19) in  
opposite directions to each other and the rotors of the second pair rotate so as to tend to  
5 produce a denser arrangement of the fibers in the passing flow toward the peripheral zone of  
the duct. in opposite directions to each other.

6. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 45, ~~in which~~ wherein the rotors (16,  
17) of the first pair rotate so as to tend to produce a denser arrangement of the fibers in the  
passing flow toward the ~~peripheral~~ central zone of the duct (11), while the rotors (18, 19) of the  
second pair rotate so as to tend to produce a denser arrangement of the fibers in the passing  
5 flow toward the ~~central~~ peripheral zone of the duct.

7. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims, in~~  
~~which the radial elements (43) of said rotors comprise rod-shaped members constrained to a~~  
~~respective rotating shaft (41).~~ claim 5, wherein the rotors of the first pair rotate so as to tend  
to produce a denser arrangement of the fibers in the passing flow toward the peripheral zone  
5 of the duct, while the rotors of the second pair rotate so as to tend to produce a denser  
arrangement of the fibers in the passing flow toward the central zone of the duct.

8. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims, in~~  
~~which said duct (11) has at least one portion with a rectangular or square cross-section, in~~  
~~which said rotors are inserted.~~ claim 1, wherein the radial elements of said rotors comprise rod-

shaped members constrained to a respective rotating shaft.

9. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein said duct has at least one portion with a rectangular or square cross-section, in which said radial elements (43) have an extension such that the envelopes of adjacent rotors interfere with each otherare inserted.

10. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims, in which said duct (11) has a transversal cross-section which is smaller than said inlet (13) and said outlet (15).~~claim 1, wherein said radial elements have an extension such that the envelopes of adjacent rotors interfere with each other.

11. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims, in which said rotors are actuated at a variable speed.~~claim 1, wherein said duct has a transversal cross-section which is smaller than said inlet and said outlet.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A device for dry-forming a strip-shaped fibrous material, comprising a pervious forming wire (3), a forming head (5) on a first side of said wire and a suction box (7) on the opposite side of said wire, said forming head being supplied, by means of a supply duct (8), with fibers suspended in a gaseous flow, characterized in that a mixing device~~Device according to ~~one or more of Claims 1 to 11 is arranged in said supply duct,~~

~~upstream of said forming head (5). claim 1, wherein said rotors are actuated at a variable speed.~~

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~A device for ~~forming~~dry-forming a strip-shaped fibrous article, ~~comprising the steps of:~~

5 ~~supplying material, comprising a pervious forming wire, a forming head on a first side of said wire and a suction box on the opposite side of said wire, said forming head being supplied, by means of a supply duct, with fibers suspended in a gaseous flow to a forming head (5) by means of a supply duct (8);~~

~~depositing a layer of fibers by means, wherein a mixing device is arranged in said supply duct, upstream of said forming head (5) onto a movable forming wire (3);~~

10 ~~characterized by~~

~~arranging in said supply duct at least a first pair of rotors (16, 17) and at least a second pair of rotors (18, 19), said first and second pair of rotors being arranged one following the other in the direction of the flow inside said supply duct;~~

15 ~~counter-rotating the rotors of each pair about axes perpendicular to the flow inside said duct;~~

~~mixing said fibers in a gaseous suspension inside said supply duct by means of said rotors before feeding said fibers to said forming head.~~

14. (Currently Amended) Method ~~according to Claim 13, characterized by producing a denser arrangement of fibers in the central zone of the duct and subsequently a denser arrangement of the fibers in the peripheral zone of the supply duct. for forming a strip-shaped fibrous article, comprising the steps of:~~

- 5                   =     supplying fibers suspended in a gaseous flow to a forming head by means of a supply duct;
- =     depositing a layer of fibers by means of said forming head onto a movable forming wire;
- =     arranging in said supply duct at least a first pair of rotors and at least a second  
10               pair of rotors, said first and second pair of rotors being arranged one following the other in a direction of the flow inside said supply duct;
- =     counter-rotating the rotors of each pair about axes perpendicular to the flow inside said duct,
- =     mixing said fibers in a gaseous suspension inside said supply duct by means of  
15               said rotors before feeding said fibers to said forming head.

15. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim ~~13~~14, ~~characterized by~~including the step of producing a denser arrangement of fibers in the ~~peripheral~~central zone of the duct and subsequently a denser arrangement of the fibers in the ~~central~~peripheral zone of the supply duct ~~by means of said two pairs of rotors.~~

16. (New) Method according to Claim 14, including the step of producing a denser arrangement of fibers in the peripheral zone of the duct and subsequently a denser arrangement of fibers in the central zone of the supply duct by means of said two pairs of rotors.